

# THE PUBLIC RECORD OF GENERAL FARNSWORTH.

It will not be denied that the momentous issues of the campaign of 1868 have grown out of, and are the culmination of, the tremendous struggle between the people and the slave power, which has convulsed the nation for the last twenty years.

Defeated by the ballot in 1860, and by the bayonet in 1865, but warmed into life again by the treachery of a recreant President, and nursed to strength in the bosom of a traitorous Northern party, that old arrogant power still demands the control of the Government, and defies the progress of liberty and equal rights. Shall all men be secure in their natural, inalienable rights, or shall an oligarchy rule the masses with an iron rod, is to be settled by the elections of this year of grace.

On this question Mr. Farnsworth's record is full, ample, complete. He has been weighed in the balance, and not found wanting.

In 1845 he was the rising young lawyer, among the all-powerful Democracy of Northern Illinois; the favorite of the old party leaders, he had but to bide his time to gratify his highest ambition. When a few months later he, in obedience to the profound convictions of duty, withdrew from that proud organization, and identified himself with the weak and despised liberty party, he was jeered at as a fanatic, and denounced as a fool. Said one of the leaders of that party, in McHenry County, "This a pity and a shame. Had he remained with us he would have been in Congress in a few years, and now he is ruined forever." And so far as political prement was concerned, such was the testimony of all, and such, indeed, was his own opinion. When he became the champion and political associate of Owen Lovejoy, James H. Collins, Charles V. Dyer, James T. Gilford, and Walt Talcott, he expected to live in a minority, work in a minority, and die in a minority. *Is that how he was found faithful.*

In the great "Free Soil" uprising in 1848, he rode on the flood-tide with hundreds of new and zealous associates, but when the reaction came, and the compromise measures of 1850 satisfied those who had been governed by impulse only, and when in 1852 nearly all of the free-soilers fell back into the old parties, and supported Scott and poor Pierce, Mr. F. stood firmly by his principles, and supported John P. Hale for President.

In 1854 the shallow truce of 1850 was broken, and slavery prepared to seize the entire national domain, and desecrate it with the sweat and blood of its victims. This opened the eyes of the people, and convinced all thoughtful men that the conflict was indeed "irrepressible," and that the nation "could not per-

manently exist half-free and half-slave,"—that the one principle or the other would gain the ascendancy and dictate the policy of the Government. It was during the summer of that year that a *great tri parte* Convention met in the city of Aurora, with delegates drawn in equal numbers from the Democratic, Whig and Liberty parties. Out of this Convention, by a spontaneous movement, without any previous and concerted arrangement, Mr. Farnsworth became the candidate of all the Counties except Cook, and his nomination was prevented by the Know-Nothing element, which opposed him because he was supposed to have been born in Canada.

In 1856 he was first elected to Congress, where he served through the four years of James Buchanan's infamous administration. During that stormy period which preceded the outbreak of the rebellion, when Brooks, Pryor, Graves and Barstide bullied the House, with weapons but half concealed, Mr. Farnsworth walked erect, unswayed by flattery, unshaken by fear. More than once he sprang to the aid of Lovejoy, or Potter, or Burlingame, when collision seemed imminent, and when Southern bullies declared the war should commence on the floor of the House, and the first blood should stain its carpets.

It was in answer to their threats of dissolution and war, if they could not add slave States as fast as free States were received, that Mr. Farnsworth closed one of his speeches with that memorable declaration which so startled the country at the time: "Sir, so long as I am honored with a seat in this House, I will never, so help me God, I will never vote to add another slave State to this Union."

But in the winter of 1860-61 he was subjected to a severer test. The crisis was reached. Mr. Lincoln was elected. The rebel States passed Ordinances of Secession. The nation was thus thoroughly alarmed. The Union held their breath. Wall Street trembled like an aspen leaf. Then arose a cry for compromise. The peace-makers came to the rescue. Seward, Corwin, Crittenden, and Douglas, labored to find some guarantees that would satisfy the fire-eaters. They offered to make slavery eternal. The border State and the Crittenden Compromise which received the sanction of the House, and failed in the Senate only because the fire-eaters would not vote for them, cannot be read *any* without manifesting every patriot cheek with shame. During that fierce struggle Mr. Farnsworth quailed not. When the rebels threatened to leave their seats and withdraw from the House, "Very well," he replied, "if you wish to go, do not stand upon the

order of your going, but go at once." He rejected all their paltry compromises, saying, "There can be no compromise but upon the eternal foundations of liberty, justice, and equality," and thus anchored to principle he rode triumphantly through the storm.

He remained in Washington after the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln till Sumner was fired upon, and the country all ablaze with the war spirit. One day Mr. Lincoln called him to his private room, and said: "Farnsworth, here is authority to raise a regiment of cavalry. Go home and call your radical boys, who hate slavery so intensely, to mount their horses, and help put down this slave-holders' rebellion." The order was executed, the camp established, the men enlisted, the horses bought, and in a very short time they were ready to take the field. Lincoln personally welcomed them to the Potomac, and christened them as "Farnsworth's big Abolition Regiment," a name and a character which they bore and honored through the entire war.

Of this regiment Farnsworth was commissioned as Colonel, and had them through all the dubious campaigns of McClellan on the Potomac and the Peninsula. He was so constantly in the saddle that his health failed, and he was compelled to leave the service in 1863, but not till after he was made a Brigadier on the recommendation of Sumner, McClellan and Flossensart, given without solicitation.

In 1863 he again resumed his seat in the House of Representatives, where, by successive elections, he has remained ever since. He has so steadily won on the confidence of his fellow-members that he now stands among the foremost men in that House. Speaker Colfax recognizes his power by appointing him a member of the Reconstruction Committee, the most important committee in the House at this juncture of public affairs; also, by making him Chairman of the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads,—a position of great responsibility, and requiring constant labor. The Reconstruction Committee manifest their confidence in him by making him virtual Chairman during the illness of Mr. Stevens. No attentive reader of the Congressional Reports can fail to perceive that he stands among the few who mould and shape national legislation. This is fully recognized by the leading political journals of the East.

And these facts are the best answer to the objections now being hawked about the District by interested parties. If he was indolent, and inattentive to business, and made no mark in Washington, Colfax, Stevens, Boutwell, and men of that stamp, would not be his in-

mate associates, and would not put him forward to the most laborious positions in the House.

General Farnsworth stands now on the same platform of Liberty, Justice, Humanity, upon which he stood in 1845. He believes all men entitled to equal civil rights and political privileges. He will never consent to place the loyal men of the South under the rule of the rebels. He believes in General Grant. He is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He intends the rebellion, which was put down at such cost, shall be kept down. He expects traitors to take and keep the "back seats." He has been through every stage of the war with the slave power. He has never faltered. His experience is of incalculable value to his constituents. He has achieved a national reputation. He thoroughly comprehends the issues involved in the coming campaign.

And with all deference to the other candidates, named in connection with the office of Representative, let the people say at their primary meetings on the 25th inst., whether they are willing to support our present distinguished member, General John F. Farnsworth, provided always that we cannot secure the nomination of our own candidate from De Kalb County.

As a proof that the DEMOCRATS are working with disaffected Republicans to defeat the nomination of General Farnsworth it may be stated that E. M. Haines, the Democratic candidate for Congress in 1866, is, at the present time, one of the most active fighting men,—one of the chief engineers in the District in opposition to the General.

## OUR SECOND CHOICE.

Let the delegation from De Kalb County go to the District Convention, and present the name of Ruelin Ellwood as a candidate for Congress. Give the elements in the Convention opposed to General Farnsworth, opportunity to unite upon him (Ellwood), and, if these elements are strong enough, then Mr. Ellwood will be nominated. If they are not strong enough, or are unwilling to unite upon him, then we must make a *second* choice. To any that providing for this contingency, and making General Farnsworth our second choice at the primary meetings on the 25th inst., will injure Mr. Ellwood's chances of receiving the nomination is a humbug—is sophistry of the most unperfected kind, and only requires to be well considered by the people to convince them of the deception attempted to be practised for the purpose of defeating Gen. Farnsworth, regardless of who the opposing candidate may be.